



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND LAND REFORM

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MEDIA RELEASE

SUBJECT: PUBLIC BRIEFING ON LOCUST OUTBREAK

The 2nd wave outbreak of the Reed Migratory Locust in Namibia is more severe than the first. The outbreak this time is of mainly swarming locusts (flying swarms) and is occurring in northern- central and eastern Namibia moving southwards. The most effective method of control under current circumstances is areal spraying. The MAWLR has ordered the biological pesticide, which is environmentally acceptable and approved for areal application. It is however in high demand by several African countries where severe outbreaks of locusts are currently experienced. European suppliers have informed that they can deliver in six (6) months only, and the only African supplier in Morocco equally struggles to meet the demand. We have roped in the assistance of development partners and the FAO to acquire appropriate pesticides and equipment to strengthen our efforts in controlling the outbreak

In the mean time we have resorted to control measures administered from the ground (vehicle mounted sprayers and knapsack sprayers) in the most severely hit areas. For this we have enlisted the support of the NDF and National Youth Service to bolster our manpower capacity on ground. Training logistical arrangement, and procurement of additional equipment, and PPEs is underway in our bid to ensure that these critical personnel join our teams in the shortest time possible. We appeal to communities and all stakeholders to assist with combatting this severe outbreak.


Carl HG. Schlettwein, MP
MINISTER
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